

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for coagulating tissue, comprising
 an HF generator,
 an electrode (3) ~~that is~~ connected to ~~an~~ said HF generator (1) and adapted
 to produce a high-frequency current, ~~and~~
 ~~a tube, a tubular probe or similar~~ gas-delivering device (10) defining an
 outlet and adapted to deliver, in use, an ~~argon or similar~~ inert gas from said an
 outlet (13) of said ~~the~~ gas-delivering device (10) into a space defined between
 said the electrode (3) and said the tissue (5) ~~in such a way that between~~ said the
 electrode (3) and said the tissue (5) a plasma is produced, ~~characterized in that the~~
 a distal end (4) of said the electrode (3) projects projecting out of said the gas-
 delivering device (10), and
 ~~at the distal end (4)~~ a guiding device (20) for directing and guiding at least one of
 said the gas and/or said plasma is disposed at said distal end of said electrode and
 adapted in such a way that at least a part of said at least one the flowing gas
 ~~and/or the~~ plasma is diverted into a predetermined the prespecified direction.
2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~
 wherein said guiding device is comprised made of an electrically insulating
 material.
3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the
 ~~preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ guiding device is comprised made of a
 thermally stable material.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein in said guiding device is comprised of a ~~one of the claims 2 or 3, characterized in that the material is ceramic material.~~
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ electrode (3) defines is shaped as a rod shape around which said ~~or wire and the~~ guiding device (20) is disposed around ~~the electrode (3) with axial symmetry such~~ so that said ~~the~~ gas flows into said ~~the surrounding space substantially radially with respect to said the outlet (13) of said the gas-delivering device (10).~~
6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ guiding device defines ~~(20) has a~~ concave configuration on a ~~its side thereof (21) that faces said the outlet (13).~~
7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ guiding device defines a ~~(20) is~~ rounded contour; in order to prevent mechanical damage if it touches said ~~the~~ tissue ~~(5).~~
8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ electrode (3) is movable is so ~~constructed that it can be shifted~~ relative to said ~~the outlet (13) in such a way that~~ when said electrode is moved into a retracted position said ~~the~~ guiding device (20) ~~is in its retracted state, it closes~~ said ~~the outlet (13) in a substantially leakproof manner.~~